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16 March 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: Standing Committee of the IAC

SUBJECT: Central Translation of Intelligence Material

REFERENCE: Memo of September 3, 1948

1. The members of the Ad Hoc Committee, which has been giving consideration to the above subject, have submitted to CIA their views which are listed in the enclosure.

2. It appears that a really central translation bureau would be too complicated and too unwieldy; that individual intelligence agencies need their own translation sections for a limited amount of priority special-interest-material; that desirable coordination could be accomplished by CIA's maintaining a central translation file of intelligence material and disseminating periodically a consolidated list of translations in process, completed, and available from each of the agencies; that a common service of exploitation of foreign language publications (collection, screening, and processing of foreign language documents) would be desirable not only for the IAC, but also for the Research and Development Board and similar related agencies.

3. It is thought that the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Translations and of the Standing Committee should give consideration to these factors discussed in the enclosure with a view towards the Ad Hoc Committee's approving, at an early meeting, recommendations somewhat like those listed in Paragraph 5 thereof.

4. It is said that the collection and exploitation activities in the field of foreign documents are not usually handled by the same branches or units in the IAC agencies that handle agency translation facilities. The recommendation at the end of paragraph 4 of the enclosure, therefore, should probably be approved and a new ad hoc working level Exploitation Committee be established to replace the present Translation Committee. This can be finally determined at the forthcoming meeting of the Translation Committee.

/s/
R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Adm. USN
Director of Central Intelligence

Encl: OO/CIA's Memo of March 7

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